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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Health of the Borough for the Year 1948

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor A. West (Chairman).

Councillor C. G. Cousins (The Mayor).

Councillor W. H. Palmer (Deputy Mayor).

Alderman J. S. Holland.

Alderman J. J. Evett.

Councillor Mrs. A. M. Arthur.

Councillor L. J. Bourke.

Councillor J. Burgess (Vice-Chairman).

Councillor P. J. Chamberlain.

Councillor Mrs. M. I. S. Clarke.

Councillor Mrs. K. White.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law.

Sanitary Inspectors.

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

Douglas Andrew, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Clerical Staff.

Dennis W. Rixon.

Douglas A. Keen.

Miss D. Miles—ceased duties 30/10/48.

Derek S. Wells—commenced duties 22/11/48.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
AYLESBURY.
June, 1949.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1948 on the health and vital statistics of the Borough of Aylesbury.

For the third year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria notified in the Borough, which is a notable tribute to the value of protective immunisation. The large increase in the number of measles as compared with the previous year was a cyclical variation noted throughout the country generally.

No case of infectious disease of the nervous system such as anterior poliomyelitis or cerebro-spinal meningitis was notified. Investigation of the nine cases of food poisoning isolated the salmonella organism in each case. All were treated successfully but detailed examination failed to reveal the infected food.

It is to be hoped that the recent increase in the protective immunisation of infants against whooping cough may ultimately show the same satisfactory results as noted in diphtheria prevention. A clinic for this purpose is held in the Borough on the third Thursday morning of each month.

Included in the report are meteorological details kindly supplied by the Borough Surveyor's Department, also the report of your chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ruse, and it is pleasing to note that this is the first year that we can report that all houses in the Borough are served by a main water supply.

It is my pleasure, Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, to thank you for your help and guidance at all times, and to record my appreciation of the good work done by all members of the Public Health Department throughout the year.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3,288 acres
Population	19,470
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1948 according to Rate Books)	5,226
Rateable Value	£157,731
Sum represented by a penny rate	£610

Unemployment.

At December 31st, 1947.	At December 31st, 1948.
1 woman	5 women
16 men	18 men
17 Total	23 Total

Vital Statistics.

	1947.			1948.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	378	199	179	368	210	158
Illegitimate	19	10	9	12	8	4
Still Births—Legitimate	7	4	3	9	5	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1947.	1948.
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1948	20.55	19.52
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20.91	19.98

	1947.			1948.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	198	99	99	168	70	98

	1947.	1948.
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	10.25	8.63

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	1947.			1948.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	11	6	5	5	4	1
Illegitimate	2	—	2	1	—	1
	13	6	7	6	4	2

Death rate of Infants under one year of age.—

	1947.	1948.
All infants per 1,000 live births	32.75	15.79
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.10	13.59
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	105.26	83.33

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	5	4	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Polio - Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer	11	22	33
Diabetes	—	2	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	16	20
Heart Disease	30	27	57
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	3	5
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Other Respiratory Disorders	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Disorders	—	2	2
Nephritis	—	3	3
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation, etc.	—	—	—
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	1
Other Violent Causes	2	2	4
All Other Causes	2	7	9
Totals	70	98	168

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation for the Borough is provided by the Royal Bucks and Tindal General Hospitals, whilst infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

Since July 5th of this year these hospitals have been administered by the Aylesbury and District Hospital Management Committee.

When bed space is unavailable at the two General hospitals cases are admitted to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital, which continues to be controlled by the Ministry of Pensions.

Pathological Specimens.

The Pathology Laboratory situated at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital is under the control of the Aylesbury and District Hospital Management Committee. All examinations of pathological specimens are carried out at this Laboratory.

Ambulance Services of the Borough.

Three ambulances are stationed in the Borough for dealing with accident and other cases occurring in the town and surrounding district.

An ambulance for the conveyance of infectious disease cases is garaged at the Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury.

The Bucks County Council as Local Health Authority have been responsible for the ambulance services since July 5th.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Bucks County Council control all Maternity and Child Welfare services in the Borough. Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Welfare Centre, Pebble Lane.

A dental clinic for school children is also situated on these premises.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

School children are immunised at special sessions held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Pebble Lane Centre. Up to July 5th nineteen school children attended these sessions, and 131 children under the age of 5 years were immunised at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

For the third year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria in the Borough.

Treatment of Venereal Disease.

Free treatment is provided at the Royal Bucks Hospital for persons suffering from venereal disease. Up to July 5th this Clinic was administered by the Bucks County Council, but since that date it has been under the direction of the Aylesbury and District Hospital Committee.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water supply for the Borough is drawn from wells belonging to the Bucks Water Board which are situated on the Chiltern Hills.

Twelve samples of water were taken during the year from various sources in the Borough and the reports on all samples were satisfactory.

Every house in the Borough is supplied directly from the public water mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is satisfactory and is partially on the separate system, surface water from the street and buildings being discharged to water courses at various points.

Pumping stations which lift the sewage into the main sewers from low lying districts are situated at Mandeville Road, Buckingham Road, Tring Road and California.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated near the boundary of the town, continues to function satisfactorily.

Public Convenience.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector supervises the public conveniences situated within the Borough.

There are conveniences for both sexes at the Vale Ground (High Street) and in Kingsbury Square, and a gentlemen's convenience adjoins the Cattle Market. Temporary urinals are situated in Walton Road and Upper Hundreds.

Public Cleansing.

The Borough Surveyor's Department have carried out this work satisfactorily during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following inspections and visits have been made during 1948:—

Slaughter-houses	631
Butchers' Shops	150
Food Shops	267
Dairies and Cowsheds	134
Bakehouses	42
Infected House Visits	42

Indoor Swimming Bath, Bourbon Street.

These premises have only been used for slipper baths during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Forty-two rooms have been disinfested against bed bugs, on all occasions D.D.T. spray and/or powder having been used with consistently good results.

Schools.

The Elementary Schools in the Borough are in good sanitary condition, and the water supply to these schools is sufficient.

Local Rainfall.

JANUARY	4.46	inches	JULY	1.07	inches
FEBRUARY	0.99	"	AUGUST	2.99	"
MARCH	0.70	"	SEPTEMBER	2.11	"
APRIL	1.71	"	OCTOBER	2.25	"
MAY	3.21	"	NOVEMBER	1.68	"
JUNE	2.59	"	DECEMBER	2.09	"

Total rainfall for the year=25.85 inches.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Messrs. Nesmilk, Ltd., and the Aylesbury Co-operative Society carry out pasteurisation of milk on a large scale, both plants using the "holder" method. During the year thirty-five samples of milk were taken to ensure that the plants were working satisfactorily.

The following retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" milk in the Borough:—

" Tuberculin Tested."

1. F. J. Davis, " Homefield," Bierton.
2. Messrs. Dickens & Warner, Victoria Park, Aylesbury.
3. W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
4. Messrs. J. Lisley & Son, 83, Tring Road, Aylesbury.
5. Messrs. Nesmilk, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
6. R. S. Pearce, Stoke Farm, Stoke Mandeville.
7. S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Bierton.
8. A. Warren, St. John's Street, Aylesbury.
9. Aylesbury Co-operative Society, High Street, Aylesbury.
10. W. Cartwright, 61, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.

" Pasteurised."

1. Aylesbury Co-operative Society, High Street, Aylesbury.
2. W. Cartwright, 61, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.
3. F. J. Davis, " Homefield," Bierton.
4. W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
5. R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairy, Hartwell.
6. Messrs. Nesmilk, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
7. S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Bierton.
8. A. Warren, St. John's Street, Aylesbury.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,652	495	1,959	3,950	128
Number inspected	1,652	495	1,959	3,950	128
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	6	12	6	11	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	537	120	9	277	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	32.87%	26.67%	0.77%	7.29%	13.28%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	14	29	1	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	198	78	2	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.83%	21.62%	0.15%	0.025%	3.91%

Centralised slaughter of animals is carried out under Government control.

For the time being all slaughterhouse licences, except those premises under Government control, have been suspended. Sixteen slaughtermen's licences have been issued during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are details of the notifications of infectious disease received during 1948:—

Diseases.	Total cases received.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	39	21	—	—
Whooping Cough	66	4	—	—
Measles	448	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	9	4	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	1	1

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year, with Analysis under Age Groups.

	0—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Age unknown.	TOTALS.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	6	5	9	15	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	39
Whooping Cough	4	12	5	17	7	16	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	66
Measles	11	41	39	65	88	188	5	1	5	—	1	—	1	448
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	1	1	—	1	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	9
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	7

42 visits were made to infected premises.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	1 (1)	—	—
5 —	4 (2)	—	1	—
15 —	—	3	—	1
25 —	7	2	—	—
35 —	1	—	—	1
45 —	1	2 (1)	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	3	—	—	—
	16	8	1	2

The figures in brackets denote the numbers of cases notified originally in other districts and who have moved into the Borough during the year, and are included in the above totals.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory. M.	F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	F.	Total.
5	4	—	—	9

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories without mechanical power	128	1	Nil
Factories with mechanical power ...		Nil	Nil

2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of defects. Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	In respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of cleanlines (Sec. 1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:— (Sec. 7)				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—

Outworks in Unwholesome Premises:—

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of outworkers' premises.

Borough of Aylesbury

Annual Report

of the

Borough Sanitary Inspector

1948.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
AYLESBURY.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during the year 1948.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYELAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	78
Nuisances, etc., found	42
Nuisances, etc., abated	36
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts ...	14
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts ...	17
Prosecutions	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Although conditions in the building trade have still not recovered to such an extent as to make it possible to resume routine inspections under the above Act, 283 inspections and 377 re-inspections have been carried out, 27 informal and 9 Statutory Notices have been served in respect of housing repairs.

74 visits were made in connection with the issue of W.B.A. certificates for materials in short supply up to 31st October, when the scheme was dropped, the supply position then being such that most building materials could be obtained through normal channels.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Five hundred and ninety-three notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	39
Tuberculosis	18
Whooping Cough	66
Measles	448
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Erysipelas	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Salmonella	9
Pneumonia	7
Dysentery	1
	593

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting	74
Non-mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting	36
Visits paid to Factories	128

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	13
Visits made	42
Notices served re cleansing, etc.	27

The general standards of cleanliness and hygiene in the bake-houses of the town are high, and apart from routine notices re cleansing and lime-washing required by the Factories Act, there has been necessity for only one notice to be served during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register	13
Visits made	134
Notices served re cleansing, etc.	26

The Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough are all maintained in a reasonable state of cleanliness and repair. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the necessary licence for essential repairs to one dairy, but following telephone calls to the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Works at Reading, the licence was issued and the work put in hand.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

One Cowkeeper within the Borough is licensed by the County Council as a produced of "Accredited" milk, and another is licensed by the County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Two dairies hold "Pasteuriser's" licences, ten purveyors are licensed to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk and eight to retail "Pasteurised" milk, and another three purveyors are licensed to bottle and retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk. These licences are issued by the Borough Council.

Forty-three samples of milk were taken during the year, and with one exception all satisfied the requirements of the above Order. These results are indicative of the high standards maintained in the Pasteurising and bottling establishments in the town and, as regards "Tuberculin Tested" samples, the farms from which the supplies are received.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughter-house visits	631
Butchers' Shops Inspections	150
Food Shops Inspections	267

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows:—

	Bulls.	Steers.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
1st Qtr.	20	51	88	112	529	457	12	1,269
2nd Qtr.	31	106	94	85	274	840	25	1,455
3rd Qtr.	9	320	187	112	494	1,230	28	2,380
4th Qtr.	18	287	441	186	662	1,423	63	3,080
	78	764	810	495	1,959	3,950	128	8,184

The number of carcases examined was as follows:—

	Killed.	Examined.	Percentage.
Bulls	78	78	100%
Steers	764	764	100%
Heifers	810	810	100%
Cows	495	495	100%
Calves	1,959	1,959	100%
Sheep	3,950	3,950	100%
Pigs	128	128	100%
Total	8,184	8,184	100%

The following unsound food was surrendered during 1948:—

Cow Beef	20,644	lbs.
Cow Offals	8,795½	,,
Other Beef	9,934	,,
Other Bovine Offals	14,944	,,
Pork	1,172	,,
Pork Offals	398	,,
Mutton	469	,,
Mutton Offals	725½	,,
Veal	689	,,
Miscellaneous	7,100¼	,,
	64,871¼	lbs.

Total: 28 tons, 19 cwts., 23¼lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,652	495	1,959	3,950	128
Number inspected	1,652	495	1,959	3,950	128
All diseases other than Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	6	12	6	11	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	537	120	9	277	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	32.87%	26.67%	0.77%	7.29%	13.28%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	14	29	1	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	198	78	2	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.83%	21.62%	0.15%	0.025%	3.91%

Centralised slaughter of animals under Government Control continued during the year, and there is every indication that it will continue for some time.

For the time being all Slaughter-house licences except those premises under Government Control have been suspended. Slaughtermen's licences are still issued to all men carrying out this work, 16 were issued during the year.

Considerable time, care and attention is paid to this aspect of the Department's work, as evidenced by the foregoing figures.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of both cows and cattle (not cows) affected with Tuberculosis is less than last year, 21.62% and 12.83% compared with 28.73% and 18.51% respectively, but the percentage of cows affected with this disease is still so high that a grave risk of tubercular infection remains until all milk is subject to pasteurisation.

The one case of a sheep affected with Tuberculosis is worthy of note as being of such rare occurrence.

The animal was a casualty ewe, and the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological inspection at the Stoke Mandeville Pathological Laboratory.

ICE CREAM.

Supervision of the Ice Cream manufacturers was continued during the year. Efforts are being made by the manufacturers to obtain the equipment necessary to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations. Owing to re-organisation work at the Laboratory it was only possible to take 2 samples of ice cream during the year.

Eleven visits were made to ice cream premises.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit ...	60
Licences issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium	3
Total fees received for the above licences	£48

Quantity licensed to be stored:—

Petroleum Spirit	134,904 gallons.
Carbide of Calcium	624 lbs.
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores	11

CANAL BOATS.

Despite the action taken by this Department to effect the re-opening of the Aylesbury Arm of the Canal for traffic, very limited use was made of the facilities, and it was not possible to inspect any boats during the year. It is hoped that more traffic will use the Arm during the coming year to prevent a return to the conditions of stagnation and nuisance which occurred during the years 1945 and 1946.

SHOPS ACTS.

Closing hours continue to be earlier than those allowed by the Act and from this angle strict supervision is no longer necessary.

Inspections to ensure the adequacy of sanitary conveniences, cleanliness and heating and ventilation are being carried out and the register of shops is gradually being brought up to date.

Twenty-nine visits were made during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The state of the Public Conveniences continued satisfactory during the year, and complaints were again few.

The Conveniences in the High Street are now open all night, and apart from the first week-end there has been no abuse of the facilities offered.

Four hundred and five visits were made during the year.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919
RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The rat destruction service of the Council has continued through the year, costs being recovered from all business premises and a free service being provided to house-holders.

The following work was carried out during the year by the Rat-catcher, and in addition thirty-five visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Private houses treated	376
Business premises treated	45
Estimated number of rats killed ...	5,149
Number of bodies recovered	898

Service treatments of the sewers were also made, fifty-nine man-holes being treated with an estimated kill of seventy; eight bodies were recovered from the screen at the Sewage Works.

WATER SUPPLY.

Twelve samples of water were taken from the town supply and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital for bacteriological examination during the year.

DISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation of thirty-nine rooms has been carried out against vermin during the year, compared with sixty last year. These figures give some indication of the efficacy of the materials used, and show that with proper methods and co-operation by house-holders the bug menace can be overcome; D.D.T. solutions and powder have been employed.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

The following inspections were made during the year in addition to those shown in other parts of the report under their respective headings:—

Market Stalls	848
Drainage Inspections	214
Miscellaneous	204
Restaurant Kitchens	36
Moveable Dwellings	13
Marine Stores	6
Smoke Observations	5

GENERAL.

Miss D. Miles resigned her position as Junior Clerk in October and D. Wells was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for their help and encouragement, to members of my staff for their loyal co-operation and to my fellow officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

W. EWART RUSE, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.